INFORMATION LETTER

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SUPPORT PRICES ON MAJOR CANNING CROPS ANNOUNCED

WFA Names 1945 Program for Canned Tomatoes, Corn, Green Peas, and Snap Beans

Tenative grower support prices for the four major vegetables for canning were announced this week by the War Food Administration in the 1945 goals handbook. These prices, which are about the same as those for last year, are listed in the handbook on a national average basis. Detailed schedules of prices by varieties, grades, sizes, and producing areas will be announced soon, the handbook states. Official text of the announcement follows:

Prices to farmers for snap beans, sweet corn, green peas, and tomatoes grown in 1945 for canning will be supported by the War Food Administration through price-supporting contracts with canners who are certified by State Agricultural Conservation Committees as agreeing to contract with farmers for at least the specified support levels for the raw products and by the acceptance of all offers of such canners to sell specified products to the Administration. The farmer who contracts with a certified canner will have assurance of receiving the support prices. No provision will be made for obtaining support prices in any other manner, and no obligation will be made to support prices for uncontracted products at any level.

The 1945 grower support prices for the four canning vegetables, on a national average basis, will compare as follows with 1944 support prices: Tomatoes, the same; corn, 50 cents a ton less; peas, $3.50 a ton less; and snap beans about $10 a ton less. Detailed schedules of 1945 grower support prices for these vegetables for canning by varieties, grades, sizes, and producing areas will be announced at an early date.

The War Food Administration will accept the 1945 pack of canned snap beans, sweet corn, green peas, tomatoes, and tomato juice of designated specifications offered to it by certified canners at prices, and in accordance with conditions, which will be announced at a later date. The support level for certified canners who purchase raw material on the open market will be adjusted for any raw product costs below the support levels.

The War Food Administration also will extend assistance to fresh vegetable growers to the extent possible through (1) encouragement of movement through normal trade channels, (2) diversion of surplus fresh vegetables to processing channels, and (3) purchases of surplus fresh vegetables for distribution through government channels. However, no support prices for 1945 crop vegetables grown for fresh market will be designated.

Any purchses that may be made to relieve surpluses will necessarily be limited in quantity to the extent of available eligible outlets. Furthermore, purchases will be confined to those vegetables, qualities, and grades which are suitable for distribution, the WFA said.

Ceilings Set for Cranberries, Glace and Maraschino Cherries

Processors of cranberries may reflect a maximum raw material cost of $22.38 per hundred pounds in their ceiling prices for packed cranberries, the Office of Price Administration has announced. The action, taken in Amendment 16 to Supplement 7 to Food Products Regulation 1, became effective November 21.

Last year, the maximum raw material price that could be reflected was about $15 a hundred pounds. The increase, OPA said, will mean an increase of about three cents per one-pound can.

The higher price was necessary to maintain proper relationship between cranberries for fresh use and cranberries for processing, OPA said. It was necessary to adjust upwards the price of cranberries for fresh use under the "disaster" clause of the Emergency Price Control Act, as amended.

Processors who pay less than $22.38 a hundred pounds for cranberries can reflect only the amount they actually pay for raw materials in figuring their ceiling prices for packed cranberries under Pricing Method No. 2.

Amendment 16 provides a method by which processors who buy brined cherries for use in making maraschino and glace cherries may figure their raw material costs. The amendment also transfers Marion County, Ark., from Area 5 to Area 4 for the purpose of pricing packed tomatoes.

TOMATO PRODUCTS PRICING AND SUBSIDY IS EXPLAINED

Ceilings for Canned Tomato Products Established by OPA under Pricing Method 2

The program for pricing and subsidizing the 1944 pack of tomato products was approved by the Director of Economic Stabilization on October 7, 1944. This program directs the Office of Price Administration to establish maximum prices for tomato products that will reflect the same raw tomato cost as was reflected in the 1943 price, that is, the resale price under the Commodity Credit Corporation contract for 1943. The difference between the 1944 support price for raw tomatoes and the 1943 resale price under the CCC contract will be paid to the canner in the form of a subsidy on sales to the civilian trade.

The 1944 maximum prices for tomato products are established by OPA Pricing Method No. 2. The details of the plan for subsidizing these products will be announced at a later date by the War Food Administration.

Since the tomato products subsidy will differ in some respects from the direct subsidies paid by WFA on canned corn, peas, tomatoes, snap beans and tomato juice, it will be necessary to amend the subsidy contract (FDA Form 776). This amendment is now being prepared and will be submitted to canners later. The information that must be supplied by the packer of tomato products to determine the subsidy rate will be substantially the same as that required of the tomato and pea soup canners on Form FDA 776-2. Tomato products packers will be required to supply the following information to WFA for each tomato product packed:

1. Total number of dozens packed during 1944 converted to a standard size container.

2. Total tonnage of raw tomatoes used in the manufacture of the 1944 pack.

3. Yield in dozens of standard containers per ton of tomatoes (No. 1 above divided by No. 2).

4. Difference between the 1944 grower support price and the resale price under the 1943 CCC contract. (Both of these to apply for the area in which the factory is located.)

5. Rate of subsidy payment per dozen standard containers (No. 4 above divided by No. 3).

Since the subsidies are to be made on evidence of sale of the finished product to the civilian trade and since the amount of the subsidy is to represent the difference in the 1944 support price and the 1943 resale price to the canner, it is necessary that the rate of payment per dozen standard containers be calculated from the data requested above. It should be noted that the subsidy rate will be calculated for each individual canner for each of his plants, and is based on the canner's 1944 case yields.

Canned Grapefruit Subsidy Program is Amended by WFA

So that canners of grapefruit juice may plan their operations to conform with the terms of the 1944-45 canned grapefruit juice subsidy program, announced on November 10, the War Food Administration has announced the following additional provisions of the program:

Unless approval is given by the WFA, no subsidy will be paid to canners on canned grapefruit juice produced from fruit delivered on a provisional or conditional contract whereby the exact purchase price of the grapefruit is not determined prior to or at the time the fruit is delivered to them. This provision will not apply to deliveries made, under this type of contract, before November 19, 1944, or to fruit delivered to bona fide cooperative canning associations by their grower members.

The rate of subsidy payment to a canner on eligible civilian sales of canned grapefruit juice produced during any period established under the provisions of the program will be based on the individual canner's average cost of fruit delivered during such period or 103 per cent of the area average fruit cost for such period, whichever is the lower, but not to exceed the following per ton "on-tree" prices: Florida, $37.39; Texas, $25.00; California-Arizona, $21.00. In the case of Florida, a separate period will be established to extend from 12:01 a. m., EWT, November 12, through November 30, 1944.

Subsidy payments will be applicable to eligible civilian sales of canned grapefruit juice, and sale and shipment of such juice prior to announcement of all of the provisions of the program will not render such grapefruit juice ineligible for payment. Under the provisions of War Food Order 22.7, however, each canner is required to set aside and hold for delivery to government agencies a quantity of grapefruit juice, produced from the 1944-45 pack, equal to 39 per cent of his 1943-44 pack or his entire 1944-45 pack, whichever is smaller. Therefore, canners should make definite provisions to assure compliance with WFO-22.7 before making shipments of canned grapefruit juice into civilian channels, the WFA said.

Employers Granted Additional Authority to Increase Wages

Voluntary wage and salary increases which do not bring rates above 50 cents an hour, heretofore approved by the National War Labor Board to correct substandards of living whenever application was made for such approval, may now be put into effect by employers without the necessity of obtaining approval, according to a procedural revision of General Order No. 30 which became effective November 17.

The Board's action effects no change in policy. It is designed solely to eliminate the inconvenience and delay involved in filing applications for approval of voluntary wage adjustments between 40 and 50 cents an hour which the Board regularly approves under its present policy. In the past such adjustments could be made without approval only up to 40 cents an hour.

The revised order specifies, however, that increases between 40 and 50 cents an hour made without approval pursuant to this General Order may not furnish a basis either to increase price ceilings of the commodity or service involved or to resist otherwise justifiable reductions in ceiling prices.

Official text of revised General Order No. 30 follows:

803.30 *General Order No. 30*—In accordance with the provisions of Section 4 of Title II of Executive Order 9250, increases in wage or salary rates which do not bring such rates above 50¢ per hour may be made without the approval of the National War Labor Board. Increases above 40¢ per hour made hereunder may not, however, furnish a basis either to increase price ceilings of the commodity or service involved or to resist otherwise justified reductions in such price ceilings.

New State Association Officers

The following have been elected as officers of the Florida, Indiana, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin State Canners Associations:

Florida Canners Association—President, W. W. Giddings, Winter Haven; first vice-president, C. Rouss May, Bartow; second vice-president, C. C. Street, Auburndale; treasurer, L. L. Recker, Auburndale; and executive secretary, C. C. Rathbun, Tampa.

Indiana Canners Association—President, Frank M. Cravens, Franklin; vice-president, H. F. Rogers, Montpelier; secretary-treasurer, A. F. Dreyer, Indianapolis.

Pennsylvania Canners Association—President, Luther K. Bowman, Newville; vice-president (mushrooms), Chas. H. G. Sweigart, Coatesville; vice-president (fruits), J. P. Hollabaugh, Biglerville; vice-president (vegetables), T. Stran Summers, New Freedom; executive secretary and treasurer, Wm. A. Free, York.

Wisconsin Canners Association—President, L. J. Weix, Oconomowoc; vice-president, N. J. Lau, Hartford; secretary, H. J. McCarty, Brownsville; treasurer, C. A. Friday, New Richmond; executive secretary, Marvin P. Verhulst, Madison.

Sales of Government-owned Foods Reported to November 1

Sales of government-owned surpluses of canned food items and dry beans and peas for the period from January 1 through October 31, 1944, have amounted to $5,008,324. About 86.6 per cent, or $4,338,130, of the sales consisted of canned corn, pumpkin, peas, sauerkraut, tomato catsup, dry beans and dry peas. Items sold and the sale price follow:

Commodity	Quantity	Price
	Cases	
Apples	285	$285
Beans, dry, canned	148,279	242,137
Beans, green	2,419	6,252
Beets	1,200	1,830
Carrots	27,891	50,338
Corn	485,080	1,018,087
Mackerel	1,420	2,045
Milk, condensed	1,706	9,463
Milk, evaporated	32,661	67,477
Olives	5,614	23,855
Orange juice	14,045	37,349
Peaches	669	2,342
Peas	89,566	217,183
Pilchards	330	1,705
Prunes	440	877
Pumpkin	106,341	229,416
Salmon	7,460	89,976
Sauerkraut	86,182	172,330
Tomato catsup	99,935	350,438
Tomato juice	15,147	31,352
Tomato paste	3,000	13,254
Tomato puree	28,954	83,277
Tomatoes	3,438	6,295
	Cans	
Fruits, miscellaneous	44	52
Meat products	670	133
	Pounds	
Dry beans	5,849,814	334,226
Dry peas	25,476,940	581,638
Garbanzos	27,480,864	1,434,803

General Hardigg Promoted

Brigadier-General Carl A. Hardigg, director of the Army's Subsistence Division, has been promoted to major-general. General Hardigg is well known to canners throughout the country, and has appeared several times at the Association's meetings.

WFA Canned Food Purchases Listed for 10-Month Period

The cost of canned foods purchased by the War Food Administration for Lend-lease, Territorial emergency, Red Cross, and other purposes during the period January 1 to November 1, 1944, totaled $286,013,613. From a statement of these purchases the following table has been compiled showing the amount and the f.o.b. cost of the canned food products bought:

Products	Quantity	Cost
Canned fruits:	*Cases*	
Apricots (pie pack)	345,001	$1,607,937
Apricots (syrup pack)	470,346	2,227,440
Blueberries	2,000	9,600
Cherries, sweet	1,897	8,304
Figs	90,946	310,372
Fruit cocktail	59,368	348,330
Grapefruit segments	142,466	502,052
Peaches (pie pack)	61,894	228,121
Peaches (syrup pack)	1,023,366	4,253,763
Pears (pie pack)	616	2,159
Pears (syrup pack)	94,753	487,923
Pineapple	899,960	3,093,945
Prunes (syrup pack)	61,728	250,000
Canned vegetables:		
Asparagus	1,778	10,841
Beans, green	997,011	2,867,209
Beets	362,730	850,653
Carrots	253,317	596,974
Peas	448,728	1,263,803
Pumpkin	16,448	35,908
Sauerkraut	905	1,445
Spinach	208,873	546,651
Tomatoes	622,624	1,678,146
Tomato paste	347,966	1,987,543
Tomato puree	96,828	277,302
Canned juices:		
Grapefruit	620,158	1,636,063
Pineapple	12,000	42,237
Tomato	65,300	156,180
Canned fish:		
Fish, ground	87,000	204,115
Herring	67,760	353,187
Mackerel	373,455	2,251,020
Pilchards	1,138,554	4,778,240
Salmon	2,180,265	22,273,527
Sardines	1,341,215	6,066,707
Shrimp	8,986	102,324
Squid	71,500	297,319
Tuna and tuna-like fish	1,358	27,093
Miscellaneous:		
Baby foods	706	1,813
Soups	49,171	249,658
Milk:		
Condensed	1,496,064	9,718,207
Evaporated	11,626,726	45,978,457
Canned meat:	*Pounds*	
Beef	30,402,757	8,986,896
Pork	402,887,374	147,321,776
Meat food products and rations	6,407,918	2,063,087
Vienna sausage and potted meat	23,927,301	9,022,043
Canned poultry:		
Chicken	180	295
Turkey	283,076	326,352

WFA Offers Canned Tomatoes

War Food Administration is offering for sale to all tomato canners a total of 52,251 cases of government-owned tomatoes. Of this group, 12,250 cases are packed 24 No. 2½ cans to the case, and the balance 24 No. 2 cans to the case. The tomatoes are part of a total of 166,214 cases which are being released from government-owned stocks for the civilian trade.

Offers to purchase will be received up to December 4, 1944, on all but 10,977 cases; however, offers on this particular lot will be received up to November 30, 1944. The tomatoes are listed and located for sale as follows:

10,977 cases (24/2½'s), Standard grade at Batavia, N. Y.; 1,282 cases (24/2½'s), Substandard grade at Lynchburg, Va.; 2,153 cases (24/2's), Standard grade at St. Louis, Mo.; 37,839 cases (24/2's), Substandard grade at Baltimore, Md.; St. Louis, Mo.; and Preston, Md.

House Proposes to Extend Federal Crop Insurance Act

Proposals to extend crop insurance on a trial basis to producers of fruits and vegetables were adopted by the House as it approved on November 22 six new amendments to the Federal Crop Insurance Act. The benefits of crop insurance under present law now apply only to wheat and cotton and no 1944 crops are insured because of the Congressional refusal last year to make any appropriations for crop insurance.

The proposed amendments (contained in H. R. 4911) are designed to cure defects which contributed to the failure to appropriate funds for 1944 wheat and cotton crop insurance. As a general matter, the amendments propose to reduce crop insurance premium costs and to eliminate speculative windfalls to producers by reducing the insurance coverage to not more than the producer's investment in the crop or more than 75 per cent of the average yield of the insured farm, whichever is less. Provision would also be made for establishment of a reserve and for prorating claims when the total claims exceed the collected premiums and existing reserve.

Canners will be particularly interested in the proposed extension of crop insurance to fruits and vegetables on a trial basis. This extension is the result of numerous requests. Crop insurance under amendments added on the House floor, would be available for dry beans, citrus and other fruits, potatoes and other vegetables, and any other agricultural commodity. Because of the trial character of the insurance of these additional crops, the insurance would be available only to producers in not more than twenty counties selected as trial areas, and as to those producers, would only be available for three years. The Federal Crop Insurance Corporaiton would be required to report to Congress on the result of the trial insurance for each commodity.

Report Shows Corn Borers Have Increased in Wisconsin

Corn borers were found in 58 of Wisconsin's 71 counties in a survey conducted in the fall of 1943, according to the annual report (Bulletin 463) of the Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station. That the corn borer is a mean enough customer to warrant most respectful attention is clear from the fact that during the past two years it invaded 25 additional Wisconsin counties and became a major pest in some of the areas it has inhabited longer. The 13 counties still apparently free of the pest included those in the two northernmost tiers of counties, plus St. Croix.

Only small numbers of borers were found in those 21 counties in the western half of the State which were found infested for the first time last year. In the eastern half of the State the infestation varied locally from light to severe.

Why the corn borer now has suddenly gone on the march—after making comparatively slow progress for many years since it first entered the State in 1931—is not entirely certain, but three likely reasons may very well account for it.

First, the good growing seasons of recent years, with abundant moisture, no doubt have favored the borers. On the other hand the pests were severely handicapped during the drought years of the 1930's.

Second, very many—possibly a majority—of the borers now in Wisconsin are of a strain which produces two generations a year. These appear to be much more aggressive under Wisconsin conditions than are those of the single-generation strain which originally entered this State.

Third, the borers recently have entered sections of the State in which the prevalent farm practices favor the borer. In the northeastern part of Wisconsin a very high proportion of the corn is ensiled or shredded, thus destroying borers within the stalks; but in counties farther south and west there is more field-husking by hand or with mechanical pickers, allowing the borers to survive over winter.

Although there is no reason to doubt that Wisconsin will continue to grow good corn, the situation justifies a fear that "the worst is yet to come" as far as the borer is concerned.

At present the most effective known control method for the corn borer lies in clean plowing—so clean that every bit of the corn stalk and corn stubble is buried, and the borer buried with them.

Summer Borax Sprays Help Control Black Spot on Beets

Summer borax sprays, used to supplement spring broadcasts of borax, are very helpful in reducing damage from black spot disease of canning beets, the Wisconsin Experiment Station has found in three-year trials. According to the following, which is quoted from the Station's annual report (Bulletin 463), it is clear that heavy broadcasts of borax are not always adequate to control the disease. This frequently holds true in the Racine-Kenosha truck-crop area where dry spells during the growing season often seem to prevent the crop from getting full advantage of borax applied before sowing.

Trials were carried out in 1943 on a field which had received 75 lbs. of borax to the acre before sowing. Beets were sprayed on July 8 and August 7, using sprays which in each treatment applied 10 lbs. to the acre on part of the field and 20 lbs. in other areas. The result was that the 10-lb. sprays held the percentage of severely diseased beets down to about 6 per cent, and the 20-lb. sprays to 2.4 per cent, in comparison with 23 per cent severe injury in the unsprayed portions of the field. Apparently the July sprays contributed most or all the benefit, since a single treatment on August 7 produced no measurable effects.

In another beet field, also given 75 lbs. of borax in the spring, and showing 14 per cent severely diseased beets on unsprayed areas, a single 20 lb. spray on July 8 reduced severe injury to a mere trace of 0.4 per cent.

The circumstances which put canning beets in the Racine-Kenosha area in need of additional borax in early July last year were these: The month of June was so dry as to retard the growth of the crop quite severely; then on July 5 a heavy rain fell, causing the beets to grow so fast that they could not meet their boron requirements from the supply available in the soil.

Whether borax sprays can be relied upon to replace soil treatments entirely is not yet known. As long as that has not been demonstrated, it is safer to use sprays as supplements to soil treatments, the Station advises.

Tin Mill Output to Increase

Tin mill production for the first three months of 1945 has been set at 900,000 tons, to average 300,000 tons a month, members of the Tin Plate Industry Advisory Committee were told by War Production Board officials at a recent meeting. Approximately 150,000 of the 900,000 tons will be earmarked for export, WPB said.

The first quarter of 1945 tin plate production schedules are 125,000 tons higher than the fourth quarter of 1944 quota, officials said.

Committee members concurred with WPB plans to continue restricted use of tin in tin plate for an indefinite period as a conservation measure.

California Sardine Pack

Deliveries of California sardines to processing plants during the week ended November 18 totaled 40,480 tons. Pack of sardines during the week was 321,564 cases. The following table shows the sardine deliveries by districts and the pack by can sizes for the current season as compared with 1943:

	Season to Nov. 18, 1944	Season to Nov. 20, 1943
Tonnage:	*Tons*	*Tons*
Northern district	100,196	103,574
Central district	191,853	115,538
Southern district	93,443	61,414
Total	385,492	280,526
Pack:	*Cases*	*Cases*
1-lb. oval	916,796	746,425
1-lb. tall	1,193,990	838,240
¼-lb. fillet	3,943	17,106
¼-lb. round, 96's	34,895	58,369
5-oz., 100's	.....	6,996
Miscellaneous	69,625	33,990
Total	2,219,258	1,701,026

Citrus Committees to Meet

A joint meeting of the Fresh and Processed Citrus Fruit Industry Advisory Committees has been called by officials of the War Food Administration and the Office of Price Administration to discuss subsidies and price ceilings on processed citrus products. The committees will meet in Room 5140, South Agricultural Building, Washington, at 10 a. m., December 5.

State Convention Dates

Iowa-Nebraska—December 7 and 8, Hotel Fort Des Moines, Des Moines.

Maine—December 11, Eastland Hotel, Portland.

Minnesota—December 14, Radisson Hotel, Minneapolis.

New York—December 14 and 15, Hotel Statler, Buffalo.

Ohio—December 12 and 13, Deshler-Wallick Hotel, Columbus.

Ozark Canners Association—December 8, Colonial Hotel, Springfield, Mo.

Southern California Food Processors Association—December 5, place to be announced.

Tri-States — November 30-December 1, Claridge Hotel, Atlantic City.

Virginia—December 6, Hotel Roanoke, Roanoke.

Arthur S. Cosgrove Dies

Captain Arthur S. Cosgrove, 27, second son of E. B. Cosgrove, former president of the National Canners Association, died on November 9 from wounds he received while serving with General Patton's Third Army somewhere in France.

Survivors include his wife, parents, three brothers and one sister.

Captain Cosgrove attended Shattuck Military Academy and Hanover Academy. He was graduated from William and Mary College in 1941.

Canners Convention Cancelled

The annual convention of the Northwest Canners Association, which was to be held January 3, 4, and 5, 1945, at Portland, Ore., has been cancelled.

Dehydrators to Meet

The annual meeting of the National Dehydrators Association will be held in the Crystal Room of the Hotel Sherman at Chicago, Ill., on February 6, 1945, Graham Adams, Secretary of the Dehydrators Association, has announced.

Textile Bag Order Eased

The textile bag order, M-221, has been amended to prohibit the use of new textile bags for packing fish meal, fish scrap or tankage and meat scrap, the War Production Board announced November 20.

To increase the utilization of secondhand textile bags, some conservation measures have been relaxed by WPB. Secondhand raw sugar bags, previously limited to sugar, may now be used as a container for any product. Burlap bags, which formerly could not be changed in size, may now be altered to suit the customer's requirements.

Certification of familiarity with Order M-221 is no longer required of secondhand bag purchasers.

Scooping Cranberries

With reasonable care cranberries can be harvested by scooping without decrease in productivity of the bog. The results of an eight-year experiment conducted by the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station show that scoopers gathered 78 per cent of the berries present as compared with 90 per cent recovered by hand pickers. The loss represented by the difference in the two harvesting methods was more than offset by the saving in labor and time.